EX-MUTANTS UNIVERSE

Eternity Comics

#6

$1.95

$2.75 Can

40-Page Special

O'CONNOR • MYKE • BAXA

THE NEW HUMANS™

THE SHATTERED EARTH CHRONICLES

THE NEW HUMANS

PAUL O'CONNOR
Writer

MYKE
Penciller

THOMAS BAXA
Inker

JIMMY PALMIOTTI
Inker (pp 8, 9, 24)

PAT BROSSEAU
Letterer

MYKE and **PALMIOTTI**
Cover Illustration

SCOTT BIESER
Cover Coloring

DAVE OLBRICH
Publisher

CHRIS ULM
Editor-In-Chief

TOM MASON
Creative Director

AN
EX-MUTANTS
UNIVERSE
TITLE

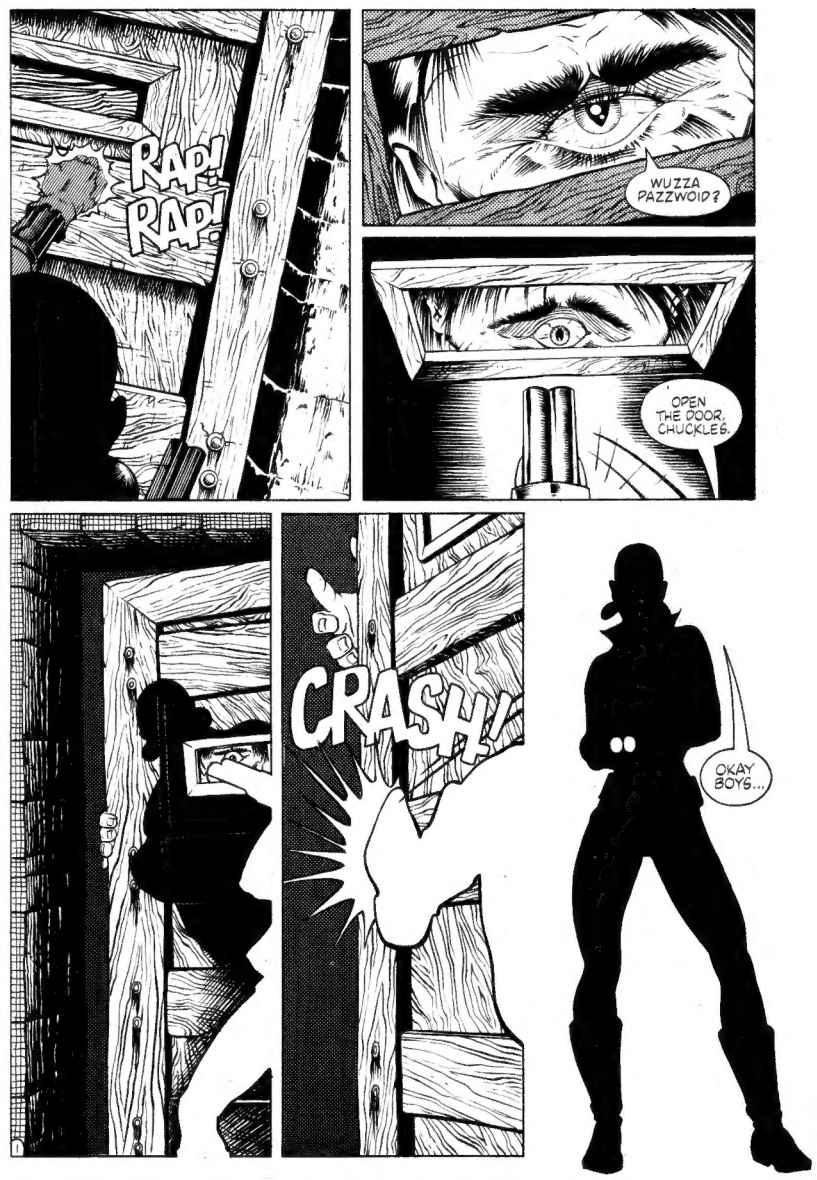
The New Humans: Placed in suspended animation by the United States government as part of the top secret Jupiter Project, Duke Goldberg, Kelly Brock, Calvin Gordon, and Roger Brunner awaken 30 years later to discover a world filled with deadly radiation; its inhabitants mutated victims of the most deadly war mankind has ever fought.

Our Story So Far: After defeating the mad scientists dwelling in the ruins of London, the New Humans set off to survey the damaged Earth from space. The computer guidance system aboard the Challenger II has been taken over by a Soviet spacecraft known as TRIVEE, and the New Humans now find themselves captives of an impossibly advanced pre-War satellite.

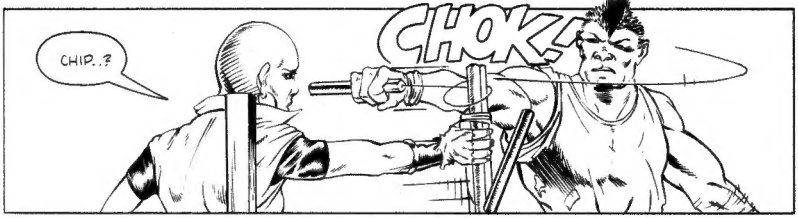
***The New Humans* Notes:** This issue introduces the new art team of Myke and Thomas Baxa as well as two brand new characters to the **Ex-Mutants Universe**--Fish and Chip. And if that weren't enough, turn to page 29 for a special sneak preview of **The Twilight Avenger** by John Wooley, Terry Tidwell, and Tom Floyd.

To Spot: He was a good dog.

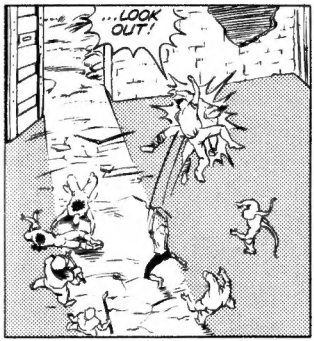
THE NEW HUMANS #6
July 1988.
Distributed monthly by Eternity Comics, a division of Malibu Graphics, Inc., 1355 Lawrence Drive #212, Newbury Park, CA 91320. 805/499-3015.
$1.95/$2.75 in Canada.
The New Humans is a trademark of Eternity Comics. *The New Humans* #6 is ©1988 Eternity Comics.
Story ©1988 Paul O'Connor.
Kelly Brock, Duke Goldberg, Calvin Gordon, Roger Brunner and their distinctive likenesses are trademarks of David Lawrence and Ron Lim.
Any similarity to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the consent of Eternity Comics.
All other contents ©1988 Eternity Comics.
All rights reserved.
Printed in the USA.
No subscriptions available.
SCOTT ROSENBERG
President
CHRIS ULM
Vice-President
TOM MASON
Secretary
DAVE OLBRICH
Treasurer

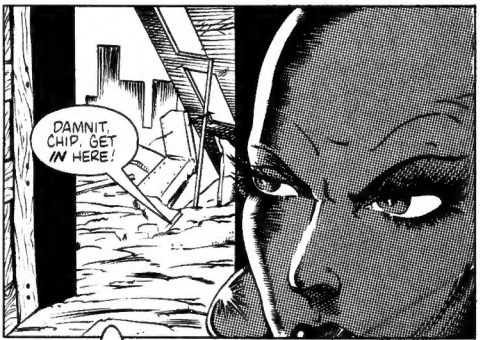

RAP!
RAP!
WUZZA PAZZWOID?
OPEN THE DOOR, CHUCKLES.
CRASH!
OKAY BOYS...

...LET'S ROCK AND ROLL.
BWAM!
BWAM!
ARGGHH!
BUBBA MISS?
SWIP
TRY AGAIN, BEEF CAKE!
!HSS
UUGHH!
2

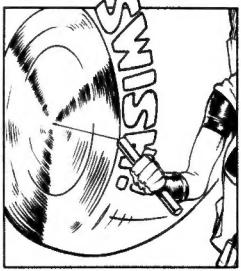

CHIP..?
CHOK!

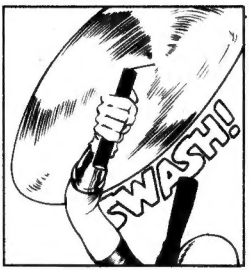
SNEAKY, BALD-HEADED...
HEY!
BUBBA!...

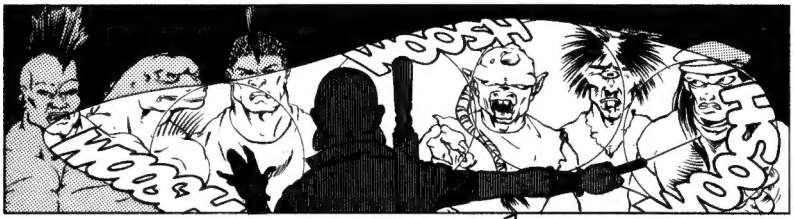

...LOOK OUT!

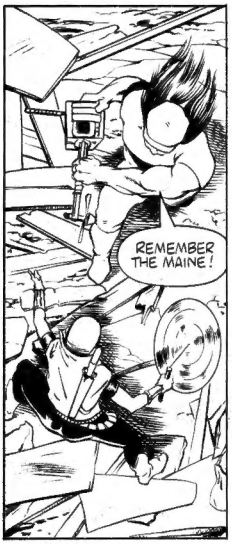

DAMNIT, CHIP, GET IN HERE!

DO I HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING MYSELF?


SWISH!


SWASH!


WOOSH
WOOSH
WOOSH


REMEMBER THE MAINE!

POK!

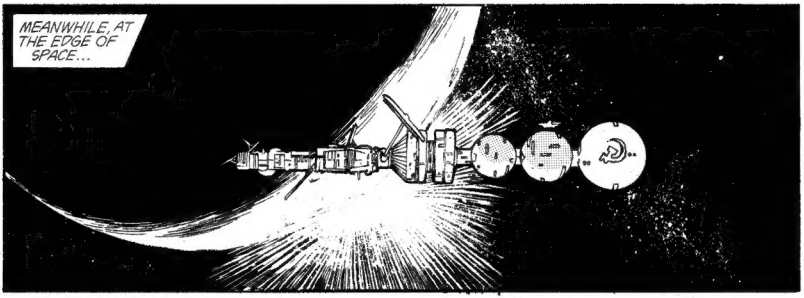
CHUD!
CHUD!
CHUD!

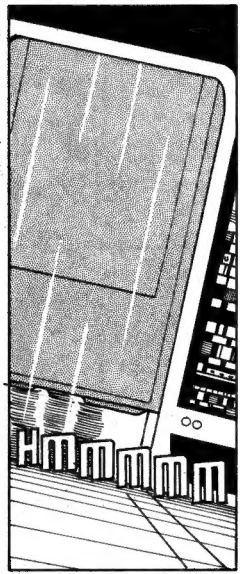
IT'S COMIN' STRAIGHT FOR UUUUUU666!!
BRWAAHHAAA

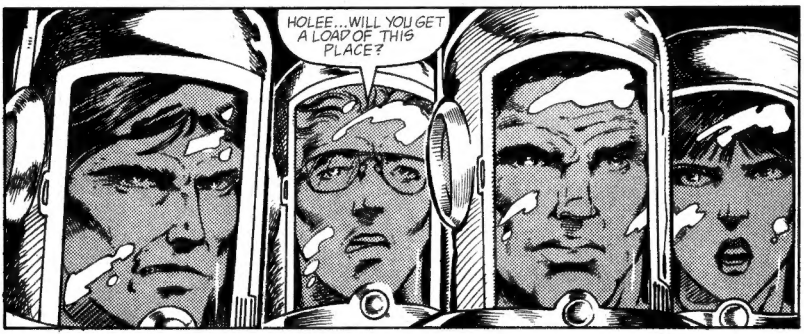
SNAP!
URK!
ALRIGHT, WHO'S NEXT?
YOU'RE DEAD, BABY. WHEN I GET MY...
...HOOSH!
BUBBA HAVE PLAN.
AAAAAAAA---

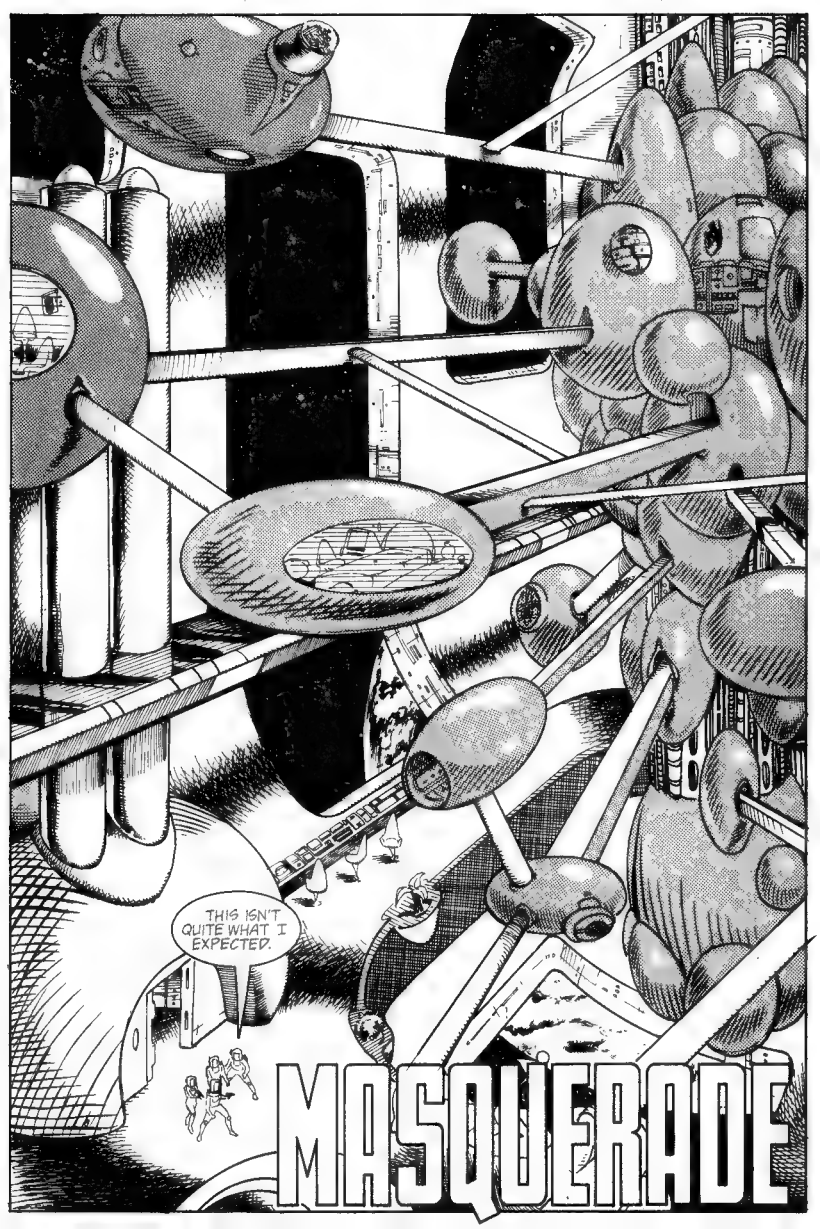
...AAAAAAAURK!
THANKS AGAIN, BOYS.
I HAD A SWELL TIME.
FWEEEEP!

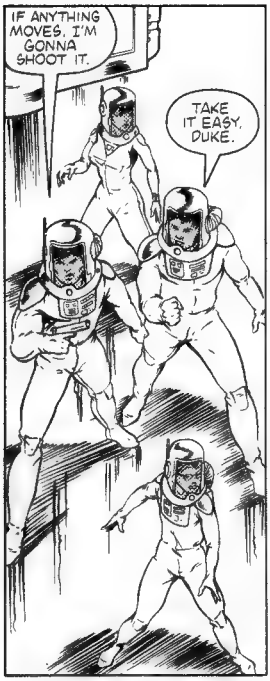
SO... WHERE WERE YOU ?
GRRRUSHRRGRR
SORRR-REEE RRFISH.
RRFOUND GOOD BONE.


MEANWHILE, AT THE EDGE OF SPACE...


HMMMMM


HOLEE...WILL YOU GET A LOAD OF THIS PLACE?


THIS ISN'T QUITE WHAT I EXPECTED.
MASQUERADE


IF ANYTHING MOVES, I'M GONNA SHOOT IT.
TAKE IT EASY, DUKE.

NO, YOU TAKE IT EASY. DIDN'T YOU SEE THAT SICKLE AND HAMMER ON THE OUTSIDE OF THIS STATION? THIS IS A SOVIET BASE.
I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT... UNLESS THE SOVIET SPACE PROGRAM WAS A LOT MORE ADVANCED THAN WE REALIZED.

IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF SECRET WEAPON.
SECRET WEAPON OR NOT, THE AIR READS SAFE TO BREATHE...

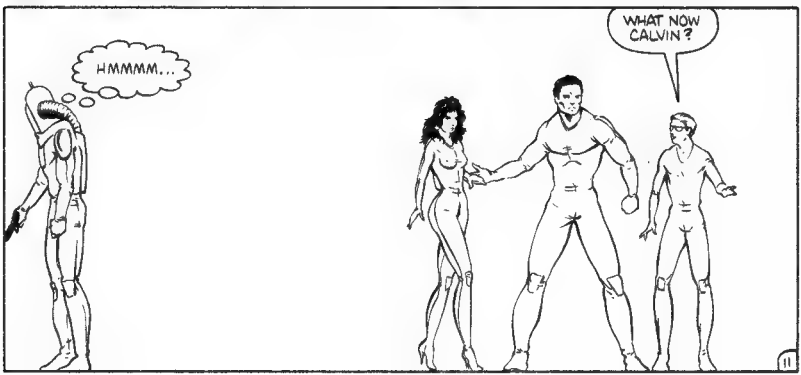
...AND I FOR ONE AM GLAD TO GET THIS BUBBLE OFF MY HEAD.

THIS IS REMARKABLE. THIS APPEARS TO BE AN INCREDIBLY STRONG ARTIFICIAL FIBER... BUT THE ARCHITECTURE IN HERE IS ALMOST ORGANIC.
SORT OF LIKE A HUGE SPIDER WEB.

YEAH... A GIANT SPIDER WEB. I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS.
WILL YOU PUT THAT THING AWAY?

EVEN IF SOMETHING *DID* ATTACK US, HAVE YOU CONSIDERED HOW STUPID IT WOULD BE TO SHOOT A GUN ON A SPACE STATION?
ONE STRAY SHOT COULD RUPTURE THE HULL AND KILL US ALL.

IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU, O MASTER OF STRATEGY AND TACTICS, I'LL HANG ON TO THIS PIECE.

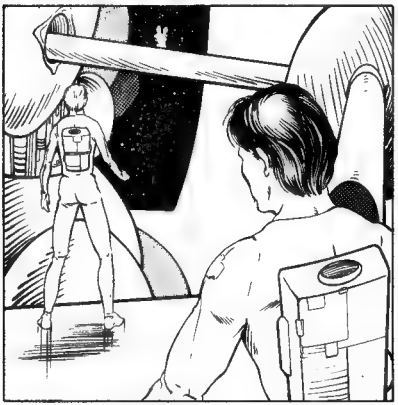

HMMMM...
WHAT NOW CALVIN?

IF TRIVEE WANTED TO ATTACK US, IT COULD HAVE DONE SO WHILE WE WERE IN THE CHALLENGER II.
WE WERE BROUGHT HERE FOR A PURPOSE ... BUT UNTIL THAT PURPOSE IS REVEALED, I SUGGEST WE FAN OUT AND EXPLORE.

SEE IF YOU CAN FIND OUT WHAT MAKES THIS PLACE TICK.
...AND TRY TO KEEP DUKE OUT OF TROUBLE.

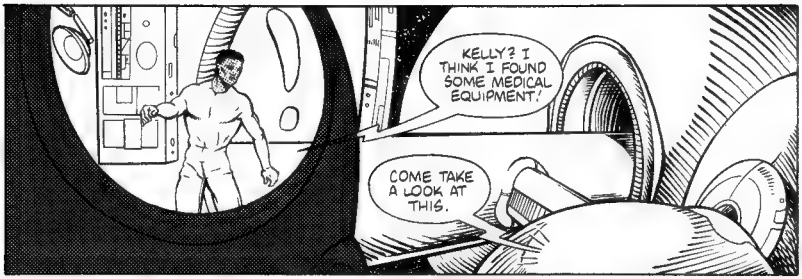
IS IT WISE TO LEAVE THOSE TWO ALONE?
THEY'VE GOT TO START LIVING WITH EACH OTHER EVENTUALLY. MAYBE THE "COMMON THREAT" OF THIS PLACE WILL PULL THEM TOGETHER.

BESIDES, KELLY, YOU DON'T REALLY MISS THOSE TWO ...DO YOU?



WELL, WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

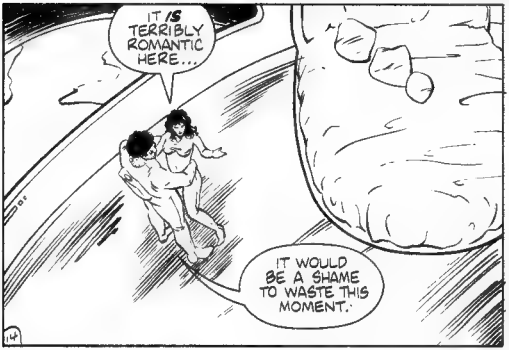
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
...LOOKING AT THIS PLANT, OR SCULPTURE, OR WHATEVER IT IS...
...THIS REALLY IS A FASCINATING PLACE, AND I HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED ON THE MACHINERY YET.
I'M KEEPING MY EYE ON YOU, PUNK... I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOU BETRAYED US ALL IN ENGLAND.
LOOK, I KNOW YOU'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND WHY I DID WHAT I DID...
...I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF...
...I DON'T EVEN WANT YOU TO TRUST ME...
...BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO WORK TOGETHER, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GIVE ME SOME ELBOW ROOM.
HEY!
WHAT IS IT WITH THIS TEAM...
DOESN'T RANK COUNT FOR ANYTHING ANYMORE?


KELLY? I THINK I FOUND SOME MEDICAL EQUIPMENT.
COME TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.

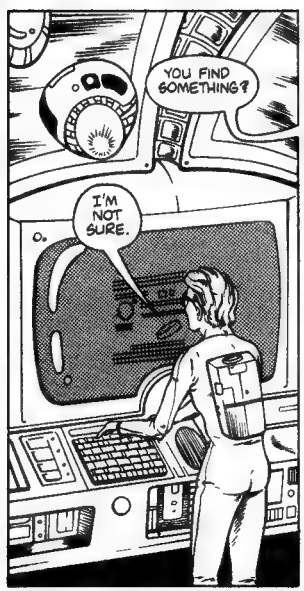
ISN'T IT BEAUTIFUL?

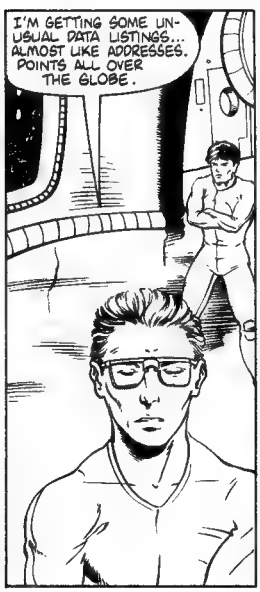
FROM WAY UP HERE I CAN ALMOST FORGET THE *HELL* THAT HAS BECOME OF OUR WORLD.

IS THERE ANY HOPE... ANY REASON TO GO ON?
THERE'S ALWAYS HOPE. FOR ALL THE MISERY THAT HAS ENTERED OUR LIVES, THERE'S STILL ROOM FOR BEAUTIFUL MOMENTS.

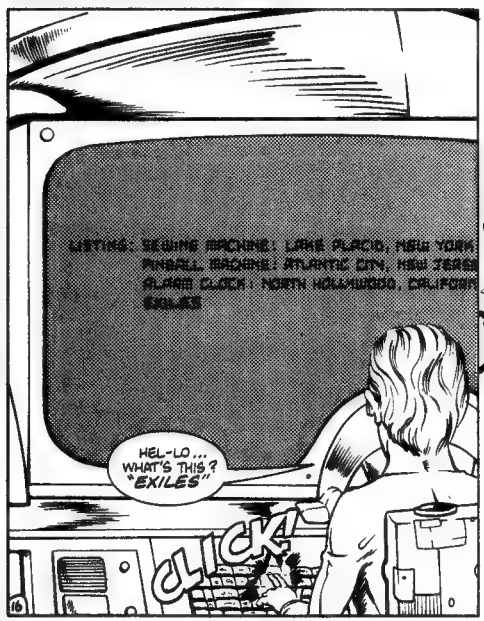

IT *IS* TERRIBLY ROMANTIC HERE...
IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO WASTE THIS MOMENT.

TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO KNOW OR I'LL KILL YOU.
WHERE'S THE SEA HORSE?
I AIN'T TELLIN YA NUTHIN.
CHIP IS DONE WITH THAT BONE. SPEAK UP OR HE'LL GET HIS NEXT ONE OUT OF YOUR LEG.
YOU'RE BLUFFING.
YOU'RE DEAD.
SNAP
I'LL TALK.
BRIGHT BOY.

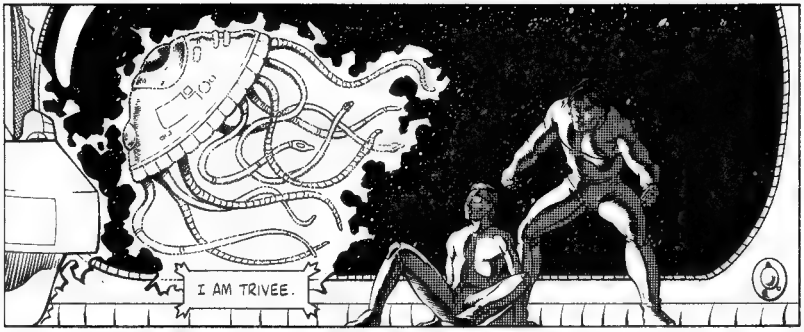

YOU FIND SOMETHING?
I'M NOT SURE.

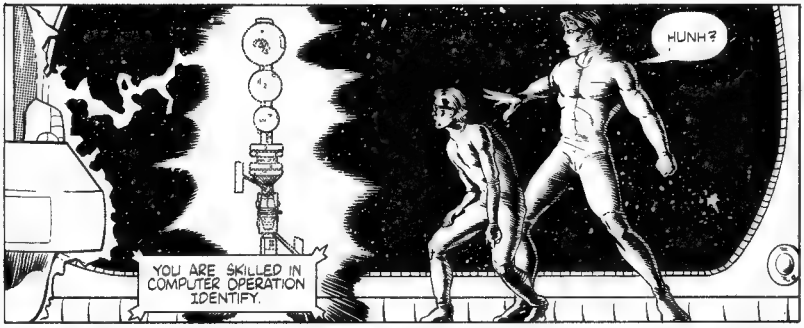

I'M GETTING SOME UNUSUAL DATA LISTINGS... ALMOST LIKE ADDRESSES. POINTS ALL OVER THE GLOBE.

TRIVEE IS MAINTAINING AN... INVENTORY LIST OF MACHINERY -- BUT WITHOUT ANY RHYME OR REASON. THERE'S ALL SORTS OF STUFF LISTED HERE: EVERYTHING FROM TOASTERS TO JUMBO JETS.

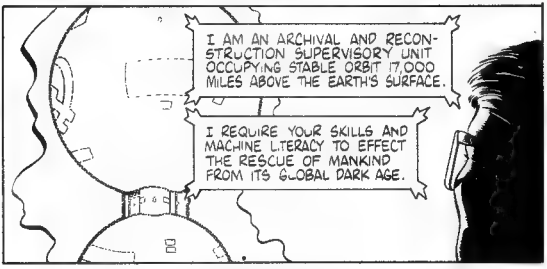

LISTING: SEWING MACHINE: LAKE PLACID, NEW YORK
PINBALL MACHINE: ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY
ALARM CLOCK: NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA
EXILES
HEL-LO... WHAT'S THIS? "EXILES"
CLICK!

AACKK!!
ZZZAZK

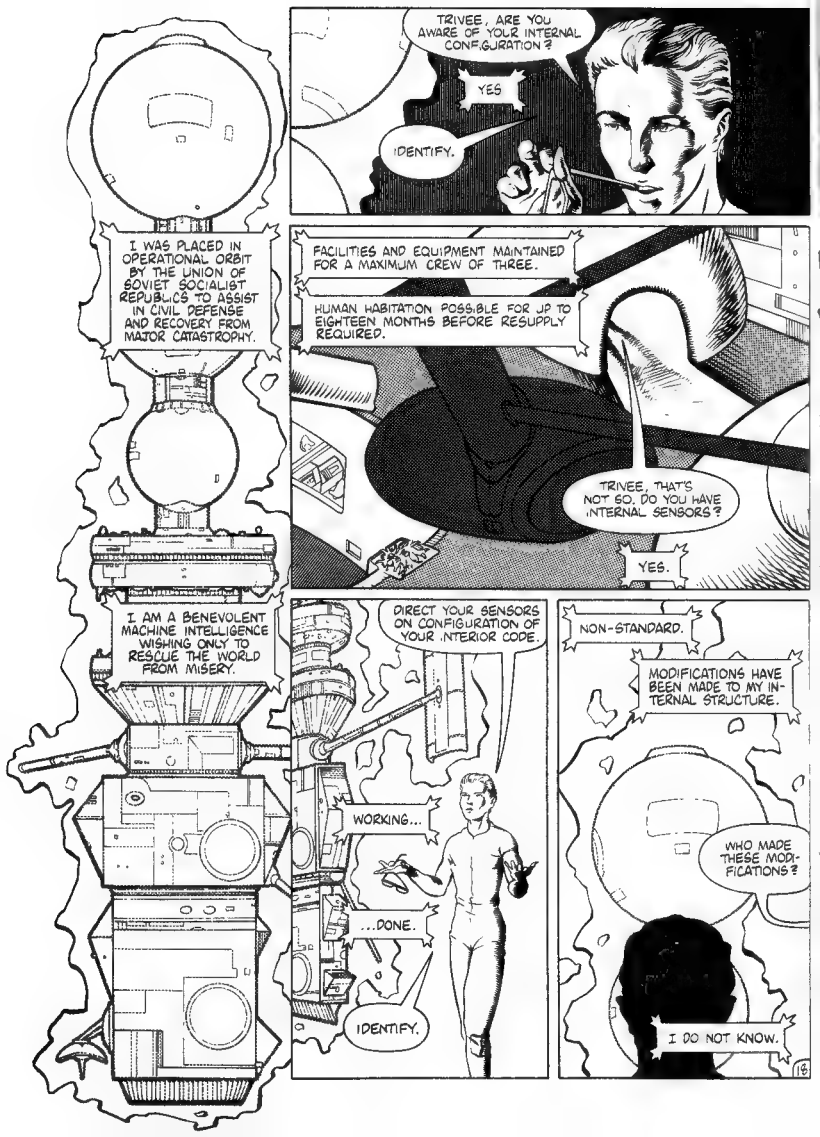

I AM TRIVEE.


HUNH?
YOU ARE SKILLED IN COMPUTER OPERATION IDENTIFY.

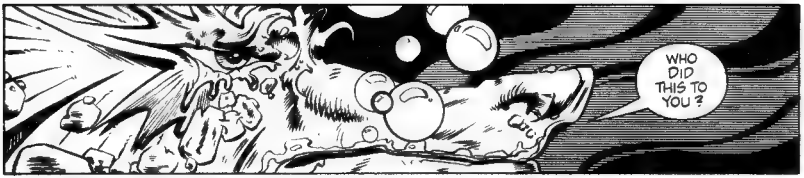
DON'T TELL IT NUTHIN'--
MY NAME IS ROGER BRUNNER. WHAT... ARE YOU, AND WHAT IS THIS PLACE?


I AM AN ARCHIVAL AND RECONSTRUCTION SUPERVISORY UNIT OCCUPYING STABLE ORBIT 17,000 MILES ABOVE THE EARTH'S SURFACE.
I REQUIRE YOUR SKILLS AND MACHINE LITERACY TO EFFECT THE RESCUE OF MANKIND FROM ITS GLOBAL DARK AGE.

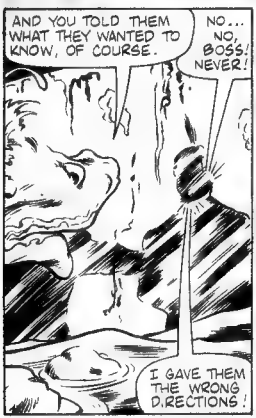
WE'VE HEARD THAT BEFORE, TRIVEE.
WHAT ARE YOU REALLY-- WHO BUILT THIS PLACE?


I WAS PLACED IN OPERATIONAL ORBIT BY THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO ASSIST IN CIVIL DEFENSE AND RECOVERY FROM MAJOR CATASTROPHY.
I AM A BENEVOLENT MACHINE INTELLIGENCE WISHING ONLY TO RESCUE THE WORLD FROM MISERY.
TRIVEE, ARE YOU AWARE OF YOUR INTERNAL CONFIGURATION?
YES
IDENTIFY.
FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT MAINTAINED FOR A MAXIMUM CREW OF THREE.
HUMAN HABITATION POSSIBLE FOR UP TO EIGHTEEN MONTHS BEFORE RESUPPLY REQUIRED.
TRIVEE, THAT'S NOT SO. DO YOU HAVE INTERNAL SENSORS?
YES.
DIRECT YOUR SENSORS ON CONFIGURATION OF YOUR INTERIOR CODE.
WORKING...
...DONE.
IDENTIFY.
NON-STANDARD.
MODIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO MY INTERNAL STRUCTURE.
WHO MADE THESE MODIFICATIONS?
I DO NOT KNOW.
16

YOU'D BETTER FIND KELLY AND CALVIN. THIS IS IMPORTANT.
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO, TRAITOR? I GIVE THE ORDERS AROUND HERE.
ALL RIGHT. I'LL GO FIND THEM... YOU'LL HAVE TO KEEP TRIVEE COMPANY.
UH...
...YOU KEEP AN EYE ON TRIVEE. I'LL FIND THE OTHERS.
TRIVEE, I'D LIKE TO RUN SOME SYSTEMS TESTS ON YOU -- TRY TO FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED...
I TRUST YOU, ROGER. GO AHEAD.
THANK YOU.
THE SECRET OF WHAT'S HAPPENED MUST BE LOCKED IN YOUR MEMORY CORE, BUT SOMETHING IS KEEPING YOU FROM READING THE EXPERIENCE.
I'LL HAVE TO GO IN TO FIND OUT WHAT'S BLOCKING YOU. DO YOU SUPPORT AN ORGANIC INTERFACE?
YES.
GOOD. I'M JACKING IN.
19


WHO DID THIS TO YOU?

SOME PSYCHO-BITCH AND HER BATTLEDOG.
AH... THAT WOULD BE FISH AND CHIP...
THEY HAVE TAKEN MY BAIT AND WALKED RIGHT INTO MY CLUTCHES.
THEY WANTED TO KNOW HOW TO FIND YOU.


AND YOU TOLD THEM WHAT THEY WANTED TO KNOW, OF COURSE.
NO... NO, BOSS! NEVER!
I GAVE THEM THE WRONG DIRECTIONS!

AND THEN CAME DIRECTLY HERE.
UH... YEAH.

FISH AND CHIP ALMOST CERTAINLY FOLLOWED HIM HERE...
I WANT THE DOG CAPTURED ALIVE.
WHAT ABOUT THIS FOOL?

TOSS HIM IN MY TANK. HE MIGHT AS WELL BE OF SOME USE.

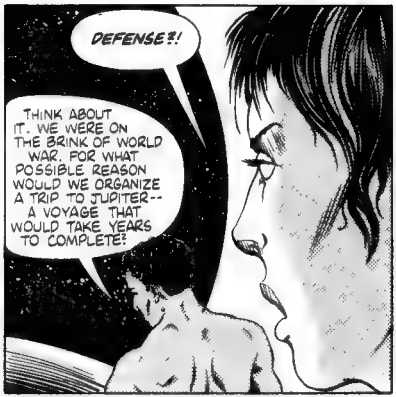
CALVIN... DURING THE FLIGHT UP HERE, WHEN ROGER TALKED ABOUT THE CHALLENGER BEING A "PRESIDENTIAL" RIG--WHAT DID HE MEAN?

THAT'S CLASSIFIED INFORMATION, BUT THE UNITED STATES IS A THING OF THE PAST. THERE'S NO HARM IN TELLING YOU AT THIS STAGE.

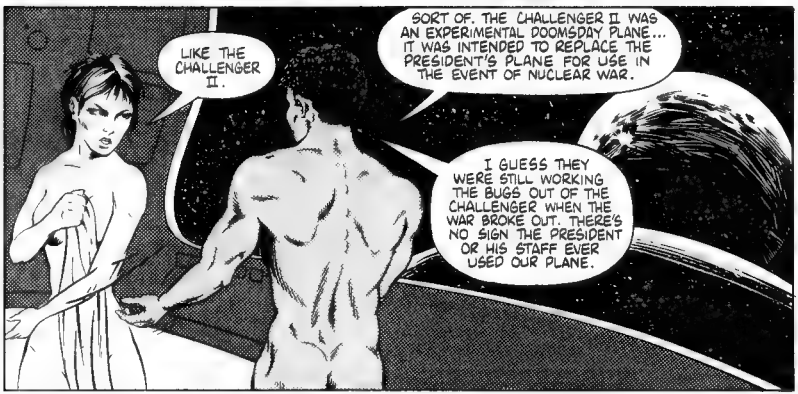
OUR PROJECT--THE JUPITER PROJECT--WASN'T WHAT IT SEEMED.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THEY NEVER INTENDED TO SEND US TO JUPITER.

THEY MUST HAVE -- WHY ELSE WOULD THEY HAVE HIRED ME TO CONSULT ON CRYOGENIC SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT?
MAYBE THEY HAD SOME USE FOR YOUR TALENTS, BUT I THINK IT WAS PART OF THE PROJECT'S COVER.
COVER?

DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY, KELLY. I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT VIOLENCE AND WAR ...BUT THE JUPITER PROJECT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH SPACE EXPLORATION.
IT WAS A DEFENSE PROJECT.

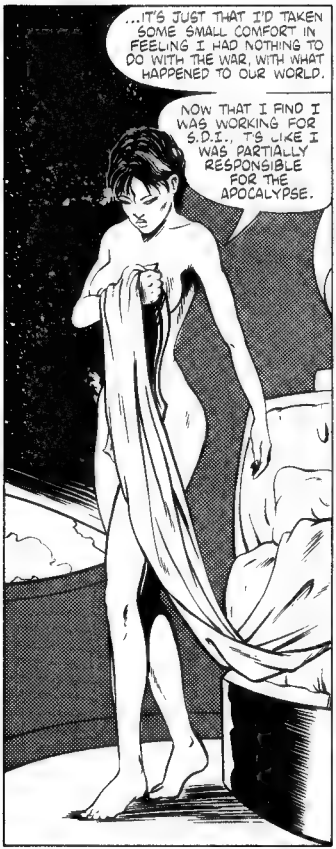

DEFENSE?!
THINK ABOUT IT. WE WERE ON THE BRINK OF WORLD WAR. FOR WHAT POSSIBLE REASON WOULD WE ORGANIZE A TRIP TO JUPITER-- A VOYAGE THAT WOULD TAKE YEARS TO COMPLETE?

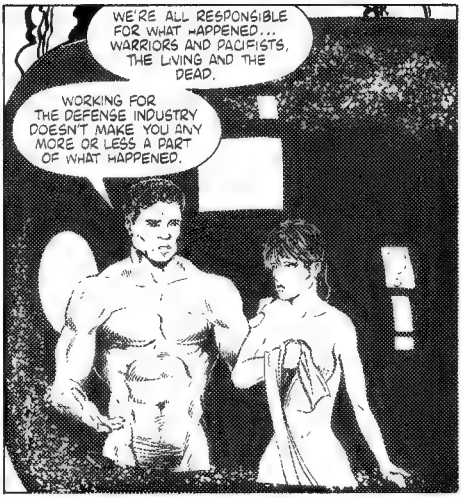
PROJECT JUPITER WAS DEDICATED TO BREEDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FIGHTER PILOTS. IT WAS PART OF REAGAN'S S.D.I. PLAN.
DUKE AND I--AND OTHERS--WERE BEING TRAINED TO FLY FIGHTER MISSIONS IN SPACE. WE WERE SUPPOSED TO FLY ANTI-SATELLITE AND ORBITAL SUPPORT SORTIES IN SHUTTLES AND EXPERIMENTAL SPACE-FIGHTERS--


LIKE THE CHALLENGER II.
SORT OF. THE CHALLENGER II WAS AN EXPERIMENTAL DOOMSDAY PLANE... IT WAS INTENDED TO REPLACE THE PRESIDENT'S PLANE FOR USE IN THE EVENT OF NUCLEAR WAR.
I GUESS THEY WERE STILL WORKING THE BUGS OUT OF THE CHALLENGER WHEN THE WAR BROKE OUT. THERE'S NO SIGN THE PRESIDENT OR HIS STAFF EVER USED OUR PLANE.

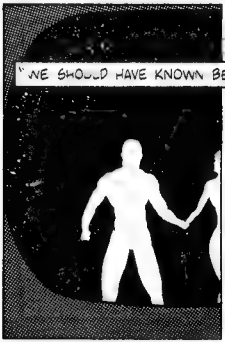
THAT EXPLAINS A LOT OF THINGS... LIKE DUKE. HE NEVER STRUCK ME AS MUCH OF AN ASTRONAUT... BRUTAL, INDEPENDENT, UNIMAGINATIVE.
BUT PERFECT FIGHTER PILOT MATERIAL.
YOU ALL KNEW--ALL THREE OF YOU?
YES. I'M SORRY.

IT'S ALL RIGHT... IT'S JUST...


...IT'S JUST THAT I'D TAKEN SOME SMALL COMFORT IN FEELING I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE WAR, WITH WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR WORLD.
NOW THAT I FIND I WAS WORKING FOR S.D.I., IT'S LIKE I WAS PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE APOCALYPSE.


WE'RE ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED... WARRIORS AND PACIFISTS, THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.
WORKING FOR THE DEFENSE INDUSTRY DOESN'T MAKE YOU ANY MORE OR LESS A PART OF WHAT HAPPENED.

THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALLOWING WEAPONS THAT ENDED THE WORLD TO EXIST.
HYDROGEN BOMBS, GENE BOMBS, NEUTRON BOMBS--WE WERE LIKE...CHILDREN PLAYING WITH MATCHES.


"WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER."

KNOCK IT OFF WITH THE ADAM AND EVE ROUTINE AND GET DRESSED. THE CREEP'S FOUND SOMETHING.

RRRRIT'S A TRRRAP.
I KNOW.

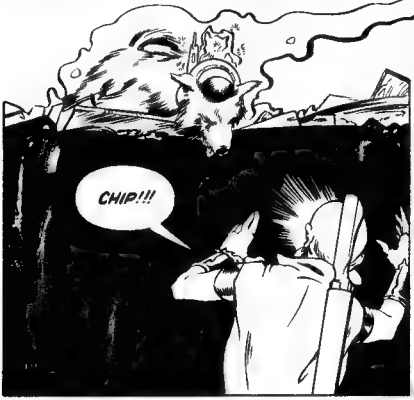
BUT THIS IS WHERE THE SEA HORSE'S FLUNKY LED US. THE SEA HORSE IS IN THERE-- HE'S GOT TO BE. AND HE HOLDS THE SECRET WE NEED.
WE'RE GOING IN.

TOOOO RRRISK-EEE.
WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.

EN-EEEE-MEEES!

RRRRRR!

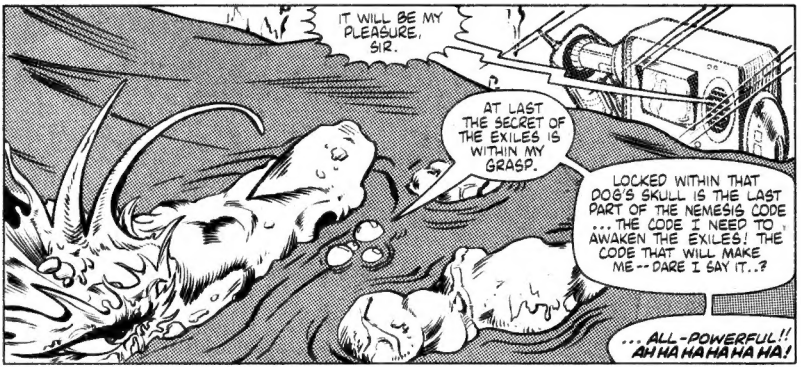
CLICK! CLICK!
BLAM!


CHIP!!!

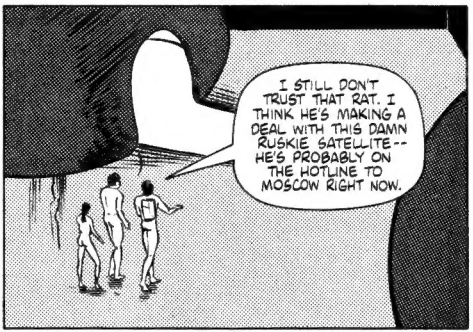
Uhnn...
FWOOSH!

TEAM LEADER TO SEA HORSE. WE'VE GOT THEM.
EXCELLENT! BRING THE DOG TO ME *IMMEDIATELY!*

AND THE G.RL?
HAVE FUN WITH HER.


IT WILL BE MY PLEASURE, SIR.
AT LAST THE SECRET OF THE EXILES IS WITHIN MY GRASP.
LOCKED WITHIN THAT DOG'S SKULL IS THE LAST PART OF THE NEMESIS CODE ... THE CODE I NEED TO AWAKEN THE EXILES! THE CODE THAT WILL MAKE ME -- DARE I SAY IT..?
... ALL-POWERFUL!! AH HA HA HA HA HA!

ROGER WAS ON-LINE WITH THE COMPUTER THAT RUNS THIS PLACE. SOMETHING'S FISHY.

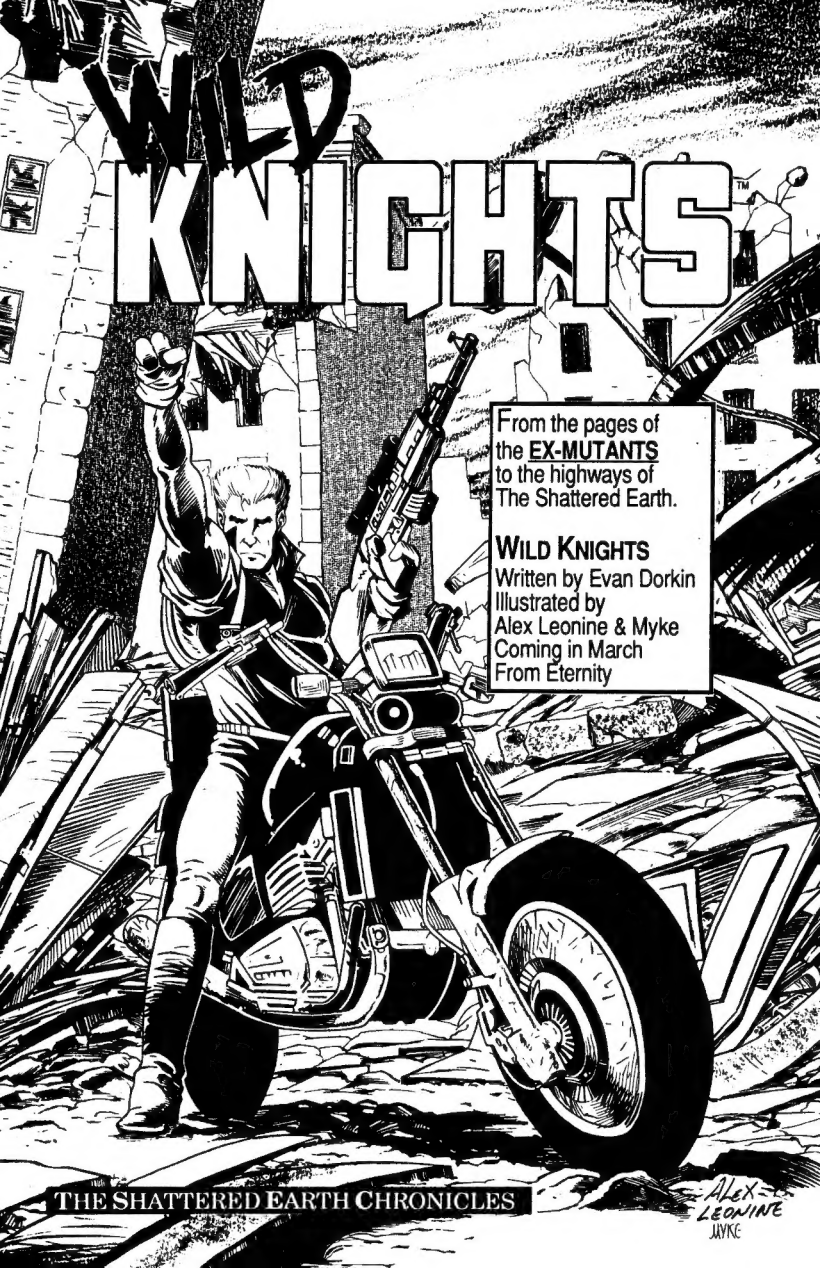

I STILL DON'T TRUST THAT RAT. I THINK HE'S MAKING A DEAL WITH THIS DAMN RUSKIE SATELLITE -- HE'S PROBABLY ON THE HOTLINE TO MOSCOW RIGHT NOW.

GOOD LORD!
NEXT ISSUE:
EXILES!

Ex-Mutants is a trademark of Eternity Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

EX-MUTANTS

All New Stories
All New Art
40 pages
Every Month
From
ETERNITY


WILD KNIGHTS™
From the pages of the EX-MUTANTS to the highways of The Shattered Earth.
WILD KNIGHTS
Written by Evan Dorkin
Illustrated by
Alex Leonine & Myke
Coming in March
From Eternity
THE SHATTERED EARTH CHRONICLES
ALEX LEONINE
JAYKE

King Spyder